

75-8486/A

October 28, 1975



Thank you very much for forwarding the notes from [redacted] I am delighted that this matter has now been settled so that [redacted] has been cleared for entry to the United States.

Sincerely,

~~W. E. Colby~~

W. E. Colby
Director

WEC:lm (24 Oct 75)

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee
✓ 1 - DCI w/Basic
1 - ER

STAT

September 29, 1975

Mr. Wm. Colby
Director, CIA
U.S. Government
Washington, D.C.
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Colby:

[redacted]
of RVN has requested I forward to you a copy
of his most recent one way correspondence with
the U.S. Government.

He was most surprised to hear you were not
aware of his case as he thought you knew of his
situation in Thailand.

Needless to say, he is most grateful to be
leaving for the U.S. on October 1. [redacted]

STAT
STAT

Sincerely,

STAT

Attachment
BCT:pps

Vayama Camp
Sattahip Naval Base
Sattahip, Thailand

September 18, 1975

Dr. Henry Kissinger
State Department
Washington D.C.
U.S.A.

Dear Secretary Kissinger:

STAT
My name is [REDACTED],
Vietnamese refugee in Camp Vayama, Thailand.

Months before the fall of Saigon, my family and I became more and more concerned as the overall political and military situation worsened throughout Vietnam. The manner in which the communists "won" the battles and took over the province in highlands, then in the northern coastal area of the country, chiefly the manner in which the then leading generals, politicians and others (including Mr. NGUYEN VAN THIEU) reacted, strongly suggested that the very end of South Vietnam belonging to the Free World was nearing at a speedy pace, with no hope for retrieval. After the chaotic loss of DANANG (the second largest and best defended town of Vietnam), we decided to flee the country, unwilling to live under the communist regime, against which we fought for decades.

Subsequently, on April 8th, I submitted an official letter to the U.S. Ambassador in Saigon, requesting the American Government to evacuate us to, and resettle us in U.S.A. According to MM J.H. ASHIDA and S.C. LOWMAN, both attaches at the U.S. Embassy, due attention was paid to our case which was put on an active file, later on, we are given a date, time and point assembly for evacuation. Yet on April 29th, nobody was to meet us at the agreed rendezvous; and no contact could be established with the Embassy despite our repeated efforts (later, we learned that together with the high-ranked Vietnamese personalities, we were left behind due to the very difficult and risky conditions the evacuation plan encountered). At that time, enemy rockets began to fall into the Capital, mainly at the Tan Son Nhat Airport, enemy troops were closing in rapidly, rifle fires could be heard within downtown Saigon, and fighting occurred at the Embassy gates. We decided to escape by our own means that were most harzadous. The escape was a nightmare, and we endured a seven-day journey filled with sufferings, threats, deadly risk, storms, sickness, hunger, thirst, sea piracy..... to arrive finally in Thailand on May 6th.

- 2 -

When I left my beloved country, I was very self-confident: I was convinced that with my dignity, my past life, I would receive some fair treatment from the U.S. Government, i.e. would be among those authorized to enter the U.S.A. at the earliest.

Being among the first who came to Vayama Camp, the first who submitted an application to be evacuated, the first who fulfilled the INS criteria of "family relationship", I am still waiting in Thailand with a vague and undecisive future, while during four months and a half, one after another, more than one thousand Vietnamese refugees have been admitted to the U.S.A. To my knowledge, my application was filed by the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok on June 12th, 1975. On that date, a cable was sent to Washington regarding my family's case, in order to request for its admission into U.S.A. On July 11th, the cabled reply came back to U.S. Embassy in Bangkok by Washington, approving all my family members (totalizing 12 persons), with the exception of myself, pending the completion of my "security clearance".

I am willing to guarantee you that I am very confident of my pure and honest past. I have NEVER been involved in anyway in narcotic traffics, murders, corruption, or moral offenses. Politically, I am determined anti-communist and used to publicly display pro-americanism. For instance, a great number of Vietnamese thought and stated that the Vietnam's Fall into communist hands is an American fault, I instead replied that the cause of the loss of Vietnam must be found, first of all, in the failure of the Vietnamese themselves. Similarly, I have NEVER engaged myself in Intelligence activities for any foreign country, or/and NEVER acted against the security or interests of the United States. In other words, I am very self-confident that at no moment, at no place, I have committed any of the above-mentioned faults.

In 1965, I was ousted by General NGUYEN KHANH from the Vietnamese Armed Forces and forced to prematurely retire because of the basic disagreements with him, and because a number of younger generals (the news media termed them then as "Young Turks") wanted to chase the "older" ones out of the Armed Forces so that they could so abuse the military powers. I, together with a number of nationalist Vietnamese, founded a political movement, trying to assemble all the good nationalist elements, without religion or party discrimination, with the aim of safeguarding the country. However, in 1968, this movement,

_____ had a number of internal disagreements and I made the decision to withdraw myself completely from the political stage, and to live an intentionally hidden

STAT

STAT

- 3 -

life, keeping myself busy by readings and flower plantings. Day after day, I became more and more discouraged by the policy of President THIEU, and mainly by his corrupted regime, which is the cause, I firmly believe, of the South-Vietnam's fall into the communist hands (this idea was expressed in the articles I wrote, published by Saigon newspaper). Indeed, my discouragement was not groundless. Even in the Memories of former President Lyndon B. JOHNSON, a U.S. respectable leader, he also showed a similar discouragement when he referred to Secretary of States Dean RUSK's word stating (if my recollection is correct): "We regret that in 1962, President KENNEDY did not send to Vietnam 100,000 men, we would not have to encounter now so much difficulties in the Vietnam War".

Extremely discouraged, very concerned, and feeling my own powerlessness, my resolution was thereon not to engage myself in any political activities and to let the fate happen to my country as it will.

STAT

These gentlemen had a thorough knowledge of my political position and attitude with respect to the Vietnam situation; in addition to my human behaviour, my poor and simple life was also known to these gentlemen. [redacted] in particular, used to visit my home once or twice every time he came to Vietnam. He knows that my most valuable belongings were a number of old Chinese paintings and five shelves filled with books; the books I was very proud of because most of the Vietnamese generals preferred to count their money and their gold bars, rather than to read books; besides, he witnesses our poor and simple living that all furniture were old and inexpensive. After each visit, I used to send him back to the hotel by providing him with our unique available car: an old French Dauphine. I am now sure, when thinking back to these memories, that [redacted] while sitting in that poor and old-fashioned car, could not help but have pity about me, a so poor man although [redacted]

STAT

STAT

STAT

/...

STAT

Approved For Release 2005/03/17 : CIA-RDP80M01066A001100100020-9

Approved For Release 2005/03/17 : CIA-RDP80M01066A001100100020-9

- 5 -

STAT



These kinds of people, my enemies I mentioned above, are ready to seize any opportunities to throw false accusations against me in order to create harm to me. I am suspecting that they have fed the U.S. security agencies with "false" information, allegations about me.

I am retired since 1965, as a consequence, I have no other or extra powers and rights than those of a simple citizen. Why, still staying in Vietnam, didn't they dare publicly accuse me, or put me on trial before a justice court, charging me with all my "faults"?

Now, let us suppose that there exist some Americans to blame me: it is in my belief that they must not have known me well, that they must have misunderstood me. Let us suppose that there exist some Vietnamese to give bad information about me: I just consider that they are discrimination-minded people, fed with personal hate, selfish and ignorant. I am ready to produce publicly all the arguments and witnesses to prove the truth.

I am engaging my words and my honour. What are my "faults"? Am I corrupted? If I was corrupted, therefore wealthy, I would have paid a formal deposit of US\$ 13,000 to the Thai Ministry of Interior so that my family could live in a Bangkok hotel, like some other wealthy Vietnamese families. Why should my family and I have to live in this refugee camp Vayama, in the poorest and most unsanitary conditions? And if I had been corrupted, how could I get so much eulogistic references from these respectable people as I mentioned earlier in this letter?

Am I involved in narcotic traffics? If yes, why while in Saigon had I written these articles on the newspapers to strongly criticize the Vietnam Government because of their inefficiency in preventing and suppressing the narcotic traffics?

Inefficiency, that is the cause of harmful consequence to the youth, to the country. I have criticized severely a member of the Vietnamese House of Representatives for he

STAT

STAT

Approved For Release 2005/03/17 : CIA-RDP80M01066A001100100020-9

Approved For Release 2005/03/17 : CIA-RDP80M01066A001100100020-9

- 7 -

STAT

STAT

[redacted]
[redacted] In other words, my entire behaviour, acts and attitude were those of a confucianist. How could such a man think, act and behave against his country and people?

Since four months and a half, I have been in Thailand, living in the most painful conditions like a prisoner although the Thai Government has done and does its best to express its sympathy and to help. My mind was tense, ignoring what fate would be reserved to me, as the security check went on its long lasting procedures. While, one after another, the refugees gradually left the Camp, I continued to wait and wait, frustrated and discouraged. People around me began and continue to speculate about the possibilities of my disapproval by the U.S. Government, about its causes; of course, rumors become more and more consistant as far as my past "faults" are concerned. This continues to go on in detriment of my reputation and honor!

This dishonouring situation leads me to think that in such conditions, my physical life is no more worthy.

Indeed, while numerous of fishermen, bar maids, barbers, waitress proudly enjoyed their departure to U.S.A. at earliest stages I still remain alone here in this unfortunate Refugee Camp. (My wife and my family (12 persons) left the Camp for the U.S.A. on September 10, 1975 to join my other son who evacuated to U.S.A. since April 23, 1975).

I have spent 30 years of my life to fight against communism for the freedom and the independence of my country. I have spent my last 20 years (since 1954) to trust America and to collaborate with it. All my life I have kept myself in dignity, honor and virtues and now, as a painfully ironic result, my honor is jeopardized and I am supporting the most disadvantageous effects.

I have lost my beloved country, I have lost what is most precious to me, I am furthermore separated from my family and my attempt today to reach out for freedom and democracy have to encounter, alas! so much difficulties and suffering and shame.

I am writing, Sir, praying you to pay attention to my case and to intervene with the appropriate U.S. authorities so that my situation be rapidly decided. Please accept my deepest feelings of thanks and I remain, Sir,

Respectfully yours,

[redacted]
cc: Sen. Barry Goldwater
Amb. Charles Whitehouse
Approved For Release 2005/03/17 : CIA-RDP80M01066A001100100020-9

STAT
STAT

STAT

